

NID 81

February 12, 1981

SITUATION REPORTS

POLAND

Prime Minister Jaruzelski's retention of his Defense Ministry responsibilities is a highly unusual action that underscores earlier regime hints that martial law will be declared, if necessary.

Jaruzelski's dual role would make it easier to avoid some of the problems involved in the transfer of authority from civilian to military hands. Party leader Kania yesterday called Jaruzelski a "patriot" who is committed to "political solutions" but who is also prepared to "counteract anarchy."

The party leadership probably still considers the imposition of martial law as a last resort. It is most likely to be used--and would involve fewer risks--primarily to control extensive strike activity. Its use as a pretext to arrest dissidents or union militants probably would result in widespread violence.

The Church

In a major statement released yesterday, the leadership of the Polish Catholic Church warned the regime against the use of force. Reacting to speculation about regime intentions, the Church leaders said that the "use of force, pressure, threats, and irritating propaganda" does not lead to internal peace.

The statement said that internal peace can be achieved only by removing the roots of existing "tensions and injustices" through "honest and permanent" dialogue. The statement called upon the regime to implement last fall's agreements with workers but stopped short of calling for a farmers' union.

Labor Unrest

There were no major industrial strikes or threats of strikes yesterday. Solidarity's national leadership will meet today in Gdansk to decide whether to endorse Lech Walesa's call for a strike moratorium. The majority probably will go along with the wait-and-see attitude toward the new Jaruzelski government.

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There may be pressure on the union leadership from below to take a stand on the regime's recent criticism of dissidents. The Warsaw chapter of Solidarity yesterday issued a statement threatening strikes if dissidents are arrested.

The Solidarity leadership also may discuss whether it will go along with Walesa's moderate reaction to the Supreme Court's decision not to register Rural Solidarity. Although some farmers have threatened strikes, Rural Solidarity will send a delegation to Gdansk and is likely to take its cue from Solidarity.

Student sit-ins continue in Lodz, Poznan, and Warsaw. The two issues holding up settlement in Lodz--scene of the largest demonstration--are demands for abolition of compulsory Russian language training and curtailment of obligatory one-year military training.

More Soviet Concern

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--In Czechoslovakia, President hardliner Indra met with the Soviet Ambassador and the Commander of the Central Group of Forces.

--The head of the Hungarian party's Foreign Relations Department met in East Berlin with his East German counterpart. [REDACTED]